

HCMS News

March 10, 2023

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

These last two weeks have been busy for our band and orchestra students. They have both had successful participation in County-wide adjudications. We are proud of Ms. Miller and Mr. McFate who have worked so hard with the members of their performing arts classes and represented Harper's Choice so well! We look forward to Mrs. McFate's Chorus students having a successful adjudication coming up soon.

Next week all 8th graders will be taking the MISA Science assessments. The students will be taking these assessments during their Science classes on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. These are computer-based assessments, so please make sure your child brings a fully-charged Chromebook to school and is on time to school.

Thank you so much for the partnership as we work together to support all of our students at Harper's Choice.

Dr. Alexia K.S. Couch

UPCOMING DATES

03/12/2023 Daylight Savings Time, 2:00 a.m. - Forward clocks ahead 1 hour

03/15/2023 Schools close 3 hours early, Professional Work and Wellness Day

03/31/2023 Schools close 3 hours early, end of quarter 3

CONTINUING ANNOUNCEMENTS

INCLEMENT WEATHER ASYNCHRONOUS INSTRUCTION PLAN

With the ongoing potential of wintry weather, families are encouraged to review the [HCPSS Inclement Weather Asynchronous Instruction Plan](#). Families will be notified about the asynchronous instruction day the same as all other [inclement weather notifications](#). Middle school students have been provided an HCPSS-issued device and will [access assignments via Canvas](#). All students will have up to 10 days following the asynchronous day of instruction to complete this work.

RTA BUS PASSES

HCPSS has again partnered with the Howard County Government and the Regional Transportation Agency of Central Maryland to provide free RTA bus access to students. This supports students who use public transportation to get to jobs and other services and destinations throughout the county. The passes are not intended to take the place of school buses for transport to school. Please [email Ms. Riordan](#) or call the HCMS front office if interested.

ATTENDANCE REMINDERS

Need to report an absence? Please email your absence notes/questions

to: HCMSabsence@hcpss.org or send in a signed parent/guardian note. The email should include the student's name, the parent's name, the date(s) or period(s) (if absence is a partial day) of the absence, and the reason for the absence. The email must be received within 5 days of the absence. Requests for changes to attendance submitted after the 5 day deadline cannot be honored.

Please Note: Absences are unexcused until an email or note is received.

For Discretionary Absences (up to 3 per school year), please complete the linked form and email it to: HCMSabsence@hcpss.org.

For Religious Observances, please complete the linked form and email to: HCMSabsence@hcpss.org.

COMMUNICATION TO FAMILIES

Families may find it useful to bookmark the following webpages where information will be continually updated and posted:

- [HCMS website](#)
 - [HCPSS website](#)
 - [2022-2023 School Year](#)
 - [2022-2023 Communication](#)
 - [HCPSS News site](#)
 - [HCPSS Help site](#)
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SCHOOL CALENDAR

View, download, print or subscribe to the [HCPSS 2022-2023 calendar](#) online. The calendar is subject to change; the online calendar reflects the most recent version. There will be no printed 2022-2023 calendars.

HCMS FOOD PANTRY

HCMS has partnered up with the [LindaBen Foundation](#) and Safeway to help feed our HCMS community. If your family is interested in receiving food boxes or you would like to make donations to our food pantry please call the HCMS front office.

GROCERY STORE FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS

HCMS partners with the following grocery stores as a fundraiser for our school. Please consider linking your card and help raise money for our school!

Harris Teeter Together in Education

Harris Teeter's [Together In Education](#) program gives schools a chance to earn funds when you link your VIC card and shop Harris Teeter brands. When you shop Harris Teeter brands, a percentage of your purchase is donated to the school that your VIC card is linked to. There are NO LIMITS to how much a school can earn. Register your VIC card to our SCHOOL ID# 7984.

Weis Markets Weis4School

Through the [Weis4School program](#), you can earn cash for HCMS each time you shop at Weis. To register, simply scan the [HCMS Barcode](#) at checkout. Each time you shop at Weis, be sure to scan your Weis card to earn money for our school.

CLOTHING TO CASH

HCMS participates in the Clothing to Cash fundraising program. Clothing to Cash is a

textile recycling program that donates money to the school for every pound of donated items. Look for the white donation bin at the bottom of the Harper's Choice Middle School parking lot. Clothing to Cash will accept items in ALL conditions: new with tags, or torn, stained, worn-out knees, shoes with holes or only one shoe, backpacks, old sheets, towels, blankets, stuffed animals and more. What a great way to help the school and clean out your closets! All donations must be bagged and put in the collection bin.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please visit the [Community News and Programs](#) page on the HCPSS website for announcements of upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.